

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

**Call to Order:** Chair Edward Buttrey, on March 23, 2017 at 8:00 AM, in Room 422  
Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Edward Buttrey, Chair (R)  
Sen. Dee Brown, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Pat Connell (R)  
Sen. Tom Facey (D)  
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)  
Sen. Daniel R. Salomon (R)  
Sen. Jason D. Small (R)  
Sen. Frank Smith (D)  
Sen. Gordon Vance (R)  
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Linda Keim, Committee Secretary  
Jameson Walker, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 335, 3/20/2017; SB 356, 3/20/2017; SJ 20, 3/20/2017  
Executive Action: Moved to Draft LC 2625 as a committee bill

00:00:01 Chair Buttrey

**HEARING ON SB 335**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:34 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R), SD 36, opened the hearing on SB 335. Generally revise laws to facilitate public/private partnerships.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:03:18 Darryl James, executive director, Montana Infrastructure Coalition (MIC)

[EXHIBIT\(bus60a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(bus60a02\)](#)

00:08:26 Cary Hegreberg, executive director, Montana Contractors Association

00:12:04 Webb Brown, Montana Chamber of Commerce; president, Montana Infrastructure Coalition (MIC)

00:14:19 Tim Burton, executive director, Montana League of Cities and Towns; member, Montana Infrastructure Coalition

00:17:06 Robin O'Day, vice president, Communications, Farran Realty Partners (FRP), Missoula

00:20:09 Jay Skoog, executive director, American Council of Engineering

00:20:53 Bill Johnston, self

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:22:05 Quinton Nyman speaking for Chris Cavazos, American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations

00:24:29 J. D. Lynch, Montana State Building and Construction Trades; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers #44

00:25:38 Russ Katherman, Department of Administration (DOA)

00:28:47 John Johnson, Operating Engineers Local 400

00:29:03 John Forkan, Montana State Association of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters

00:29:25 Lynn Zanto, Department of Transportation

00:30:44 Geoff Feiss, general manager, Montana Telecommunications Association

00:32:28 Mark Baker, Charter Communications, Incorporated (CCI)

00:33:08 Aidan Myhre, American Telephone and Telegraph

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:33:40 Sen. Connell

00:37:54 Mr. James, MIC

00:38:41 Sen. Vuckovich

00:40:45 Mr. Brown, MIC

00:42:46 Sen. Facey

00:46:38 Mr. Baker, CCI

00:47:18 Sen. Facey

00:47:48 Ms. O'Day, FRP  
00:48:43 Sen. Facey  
00:49:15 Mr. Katherman, DOA  
00:50:40 Sen. Brown  
00:52:48 Mr. Katherman  
00:54:07 Sen. Connell  
00:55:47 Chair Buttrey  
00:56:49 Sen. Welborn redirect  
00:57:00 Chair Buttrey  
00:57:25 Mr. James

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:58:28 Sen. Welborn  
00:59:59 Chair Buttrey

**HEARING ON SJ 20**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:02:10 Sen. Jason Small (R), SD 21, opened the hearing on SJ 20. An interim study of intractable unemployment in high-poverty counties.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:03:30 Jason Smith, director, Indian Affairs, Governor's Office (GO)  
01:04:29 Shelby King, councilman, Northern Cheyenne Tribe (NCT)  
01:05:48 Jordan Thompson, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:07:38 Sen. Brown  
01:09:57 Mr. Smith, GO  
01:10:29 Sen. Facey  
01:10:54 Mr. Smith  
01:11:06 Sen. Connell  
01:12:02 Sen. Small  
01:12:21 Sen. Smith  
01:12:39 Sen. Small redirect  
01:13:01 Sen. Smith  
01:14:07 Mr. King, NCT  
01:14:12 Chair Buttrey  
01:14:20 Mr. Smith  
01:14:36 Chair Buttrey

01:14:41 Sen. Small

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:15:17 Sen. Small

01:15:33 Chair Buttrey

01:15:41 Recess

01:21:43 Reconvened

Vice Chair Brown assumed the role of chair. Sen. Fitzpatrick and Sen. Vance did not return to the hearing.

**HEARING ON SB 356**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:21:50 Sen. Edward Buttrey (R), SD 11, opened the hearing on SB 356. Allow retail licensees to have a brew pub and distiller endorsement.

**[EXHIBIT\(bus60a03\)](#)**

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:27:01 Neil Peterson, Gaming Industry Association

01:28:19 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)

**[EXHIBIT\(bus60a04\)](#)**

01:43:49 Dax Cetraro, owner, Rialto Bar, Helena

01:44:08 Jim Johnson, owner, Red Lodge Bar; president, Montana Tavern Association

01:46:04 Brad Griffin, Montana Restaurant Association

01:46:45 John Hayes, director, Cascade County Tavern Association, Great Falls

01:47:29 Robert Lincoln, owner, Del's Bar

01:47:58 Kristin Cetraro, owner, Rialto Bar, Helena

01:48:34 Roger Curtis, Montana Tavern Association; Froggie's Bar and Grill, Valier

01:49:10 Bill Heisler, Big John's Casino, Great Falls

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:49:36 Kristi Blazer, Montana Beer and Wine Distributors Association

01:59:54 Dave Irvin, president, Montana Beer and Wine Distributors Association; co-owner, Eagle Beverage, Great Falls

02:01:06 Matt Leow, executive director, Montana Brewers Association

02:06:51 John Decker, owner, Briggs Distributing Company (BDC), Billings

02:08:21 Brian Smith, Blackfoot River Brewery, Helena

02:10:47 Juergen Knoeller, owner, Bayern Brewing, Incorporated, Missoula

02:13:15 John McKee, distillery owner, Montana Distillers Guild

02:16:52 Bob Miller, Liquor Store Owners Association of Montana

02:19:13 Nolan Smith, president, Montana Brewers Association; owner, Philipsburg Brewing Company

02:21:14 Carter Mollgaard, member, Montana Beer and Wine Distributors Association,  
Miles City  
02:21:56 Bill Watkins, member, Montana Beer and Wine Distributors Association

**Informational Testimony:**

02:22:51 Shauna Helfert, administrator, Liquor Control Division, Department of Revenue  
(DOR)

Chair Brown left the hearing. Sen. Facey assumed the position of chair.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:23:45 Sen. Smith  
02:25:36 Mr. Iverson, MTA  
02:26:49 Sen. Salomon  
02:28:07 Sen. Buttrey  
02:29:15 Chair Facey  
02:29:22 Ms. Helfert, DOR  
02:31:10 Chair Facey  
02:31:24 Mr. Decker, BDC  
02:32:22 Sen. Connell  
02:34:09 Ms. Helfert  
02:34:44 Sen. Salomon  
02:35:24 Mr. Iverson  
02:37:29 Sen. Vuckovich  
02:38:04 Mr. Iverson  
02:40:33 Sen. Facey

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:40:42 Sen. Buttrey  
02:46:20 Chair Facey

Sen. Buttrey re-assumed the position of chair.

**Committee Business:**

02:46:35 Chair Buttrey  
02:47:27 Sen. Facey  
02:47:59 Jameson Walker, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
02:48:12 Chair Buttrey  
02:48:40 Mr. Walker, LSD  
02:49:15 Chair Buttrey  
02:49:29 Sen. Connell

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON LC 2625**

02:49:55     **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Facey moved to **DRAFT LC 2625 AS A COMMITTEE BILL.**  
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Brown, Sen. Fitzpatrick and Sen.  
Vance were excused.

**EXHIBIT**(bus60a05)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:53 AM

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Linda Keim, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([bus60aad.pdf](#))